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Club sets its sights on building new stadium in Chessington golf centre

Ks' BOLD CHESS MOVE



Going long: Kingstonian are planning to move from Kingsmeadow, inset, to a stadium on the Chessington Golf Club site. Below: Chairman Mark Anderson

REPORTER
JON MITCHELL
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KINGSTONIAN'S chairman says the club can "rediscover its identity" after he revealed it was in talks to build a new stadium in Chessington.

The 130-year-old club has been working alongside real estate developer Affinity Global to build a stadium on Chessington Golf Centre and will unveil concept drawings for the site next week.

This newspaper revealed in November that the centre – which is on greenbelt land – was being eyed by a developer to build 700 homes, a swimming pool, leisure centre and football pitch.

Kingstonian chairman Mark Anderson said: "It will be the making of the club if we can get it.

"Let me make it absolutely clear it's not cut and dry, but it's the right time to release some more information.

"It's about putting our stamp on something, it will be our home we hope for the next 100 years.

"We will be able to generate revenue from our own bar, from hiring out the clubhouse. I'm well aware there's an awful lot of work ahead of us."

A spokeswoman for Affinity Global confirmed the company was in discussions with Kingston Council on developing a "leisure-led hub" for the site.

But Chessington councillor Rachel Reid claimed that councillors in the area had received limited information on any development, having only received a letter from the developer saying there would be "limited incursion on the greenbelt" last week.



She said: "All we knew was when that story broke back in November we'd had that meeting with the leader of the council then, then we heard nothing until we got a letter in the post last week.

"Any incursion into the greenbelt is an incursion, limited or not."

Kingston councillor and Ks fan Jon Tolley said: "If we are building a football ground over affordable housing in Chessington then I do not think that is right. Have all the other options been exhausted?"

Chessington north councillor Andrew Day said, in a statement released through Kingston Council's press office: "I support any new sporting and leisure facilities coming to the south of the borough. However, I also share residents' concerns of over-development and the pressure on transport, schools and infrastructure that this might bring."

Ks were forced to look for a new stadium after AFC Wimbledon, the leaseholders to current ground Kingsmeadow, secured planning permission to build a 20,000-seat stadium in Plough Lane in Merton in December.

The Dons are in advanced talks to sell the lease to Kingsmeadow to reigning Premier League champions Chelsea, who plan to use the stadium for their women's team.

Ks fan Jamie Cutteridge presented a petition to Kingston Council to secure the club's future soon after the Dons gained planning permission.

He said: "It's a really mixed kind of reaction really, obviously if the ground gets sorted the future of the club is secured, but what we want is a future in Kingston.

"You want to be able to drink in the town centre before. It's also going to be more difficult to get there."

Inside

P5



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P17



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Three wards hit by virus

KINGSTON Hospital doctors have pleaded with visitors to wash their hands after a further outbreak of norovirus left three wards under quarantine. The vomiting bug first struck Hamble Ward at the beginning of the month and has now spread to another two wards.

It is believed that some of the cases originated outside the hospital and were transferred by patients' visitors. Norovirus causes projectile vomiting, watery diarrhoea, fever, headaches and stomach cramps, with most people feeling very ill for about three days. But the virus can be very dangerous to the old and very young.

It is spread by human-to-human contact, which is why doctors have warned visitors to only come to the hospital if it is absolutely necessary.

A hospital spokeswoman said: "The hospital is monitoring this daily and has stricter infection control measures in place.Visitors are requested to speak to ward staff for advice and to wash their hands with soap and water."

Councillors took an hour to debate the definition at discussion over a new licensing policy

Council: How drunk is too drunk?

REPORTER
RACHAEL BURFORD
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KINGSTON councillors spent an hour debating what is meant by the word 'drunkenness' during the first discussion of the borough's proposed new licensing policy, which aims to overhaul the town's drinking culture.

The licensing committee debated the first draft of the policy aimed at combating drunken revelry in the town centre and changing the "composition" of Kingston's nighttime economy.

But whether being drunk was necessarily a bad thing had the committee divided on February 23, with some councillors criticising what they said was 'anti-pubs and clubs' language.

The policy states: "The council wishes to discourage drunkenness and the resulting anti-social behaviour and nuisance to residents and to other visitors to the borough.

"A key feature of its approach is therefore to use its influence to encourage a change in the composition of the borough's night-time economy so it is more widely based and diverse and less dominated by large alcohol-led premises."

Committee chairman Councillor Phil Doyle said: "There are some health issues around alcohol.This is the council wishing to discourage drunkenness and I don't see anything controversial in that."

But Councillor Margaret Thompson said: "I have some concerns about the general negative tone of the policy. It does read as if it is a bit of a battle between the authority and licensees."

Councillor Jon Tolley, who also runs club nights in the town through his business Banquet Records, added: "We should discourage people from being drunk and disorderly, but while being drunk is still legal we have to allow people to get drunk."



Consultation: Do you think Kingston has a drunkenness problem?

The full policy was unveiled in the same week that the owners of town centre cocktail bar the Viper Rooms successfully overturned conditions placed on its license after a fight outside the premises last August.

The incident came just months after the riverside venue, which replaced night club McCluskys, opened.

The bar's owner, Harewood Ltd, won a civil order on February 18 to return its closing time to 3am after a time of 2am was imposed in October last year. A ban on two-for-one cocktail deals still stands.

Harewood owner Paul Kinsey said: "This means that the Viper Rooms can continue to offer a great grown up night out to our audience. We are grateful to all concerned for the common-sense outcome to the discussions."

Kingston Council's new licensing policy will go to public consultation on March 21. What do you think? Email letters@kingstonguardian.co.uk.

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Thug who slashed ex's new partner is jailed

A MAN who sliced his ex-girlfriend's new partner's face with a knife has been jailed.

Benjamin Berlemont, 27, launched the savage attack in the hallway and kitchen of his ex-girlfriend's flat in Central Road, Worcester Park, after learning that she was seeing someone else.

He bombarded his former lover, with whom he has a son, with texts and calls for 10 days before arriving at the flat on December 29.

Berlemont banged on the glass panel of the flat's back door before furiously smashing through the door armed with a knife on seeing the 32-year-old victim.

Inside, Berlemont slashed his ex-girlfriend's new partner in the head, leaving him with deep cuts near his temple, lip and hand. The victim's right bicep was also punctured in the attack and he needed hospital treatment for his injuries.

Police officers arrived shortly after and convinced Berlemont, of no fixed address, to put down the knife.

He initially denied causing the victim's injuries and claimed he had been looking out for the welfare of his son, who is at primary school.

But he admitted aggravated burglary on February 17 at Croydon Crown Court and was jailed for six and a half years last week.

Detective Inspector James Carrington, said: "This was a violent and concerted attack which must have been terrifying for the victim.

"Our response was determined and robust."

Teen duo charged over stabbing of 15-year-old

A TEENAGER from New Malden has been charged over a stabbing that left another boy in hospital with serious injuries.

The 16-year-old was arrested on Monday February 22 after a 15-year-old was stabbed in the chest in Wimbledon Broadway the previous day.

Following the stabbing, the area around the bus stops in nearby Hartfield Road was cordoned off by police.

The New Malden teen has been charged, along with a 14-year-old youth from Mitcham, with grievous bodily harm and threatening a person with a knife at the Wimbledon TK Maxx store.

They appeared at Wimbledon Youth Court on February 23 and will next appear at Kingston Crown Court on Monday, March 21.

Four other boys, aged between 12 and 14, were arrested on Monday but have been released without charge.



Guards: Police at the scene

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US scholar deported

AN AMERICAN Shakespeare scholar who was stopped from studying at Kingston University after he was imprisoned for 10 days by immigration police has now been deported.

Dr Paul Hamilton, 42, originally from the USA, was arrested on January 17 and taken to a removal centre despite living in the UK for nine years and his visa application still being considered.

He was in the process of completing a research fellowship application for Kingston University, for which the deadline expired while he was detained in the Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre near Lincoln.

Dr Hamilton had applied to remain under the 10-year route, so had to prove he had friends or family in the UK. His claim was branded "clearly unfounded" by the Home Office with no in-country right of appeal.

At the time he said: "The guy who arrested me felt really bad about doing it. He even refused to process me and called his superior to ask: 'Do we really want to do this? Is this really the sort of person we want to arrest?'

"The Home Office came back and said I was exactly the sort of person they wanted to arrest."

Professor defends debate of Government's anti-extremism measures

Vice chancellor wants his students 'to hear all views'

REPORTER
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Debate: Professor Julius Weinberg

KINGSTON University's vice chancellor has denied "deliberately provoking" prime minister David Cameron by debating with a speaker from controversial human rights group Cage.

Last year Mr Cameron named the university as one of four that gave a platform to extremists, in one of a series of spats nationwide about the government's Prevent anti-extremism strategy.

In October 2015 Cage admitted making a mistake after director Asim Qureshi described Islamic State executioner Jihadi John as a "beautiful young man" during a press conference.

Last March Mr Qureshi also sparked outrage by failing to denounce the practice of stoning women adulterers to death during an interview.

But Prof Julius Weinberg, in a letter to *The Guardian* newspaper, said open debate "reduces, rather than increases, the threat to the public". He said: "I want my students to be faced with a variety of opinions, to learn that diversity can exist in an environment of courtesy and an appetite for learning."

Prof Weinberg was writing after he shared a stage in January with Cage outreach director Moazzam Begg, the former Guantanamo detainee who saw terror charges against him dropped in 2014, and Shenaz Bunglawala, from Mend, a group that aims to get Muslims involved in civic society.

He added: "We discussed how easy it is to stand up for the freedom of speech of those with whom you agree, and how much harder and how much more necessary it is to ensure freedom of speech for those that you disagree with."

Racism and marginalisation, stoning of adulterers, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights were debated.

Mr Begg said: "With the rise of Isis and unprecedented anti-Muslim feeling across Britain it is easy to see why some might feel jittery about former terror suspects lecturing on campus.

"The initiative taken by Kingston University to not only host an event to discuss Prevent, but for the vice chancellor to chair the debate, is highly commendable."

Political journalist Ian Dunt said: "Julius Weinberg is right to stand up to the prime minister. Free speech on campus is under attack from two sides.

"Firstly, from students and student unions themselves, who are increasingly no-platforming respectable commentators because they happen to disagree with them on issues like sex work or transgender rights. And, secondly, from government efforts to crack down on so-called Islamic extremists. In many cases, these aren't extremists at all. In others they are – but they are best dealt with by being debated and shown to be wrong."

CRASH ARREST: A man arrested over a bus crash in Kingston in which a university student was killed has been bailed for a fourth time. The 34-year-old white BMW M3 driver was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving after Hina Shamim, 21, died by the side of Penrhyn Road on March 31, 2015. He has been bailed to return to a west London police station late this month. Miss Shamim was crossing the road to go to the university to hand in coursework and then meet up with friends.

NEW ROADS: Three new roads have been added to the Canbury Gardens controlled parking zone. These include Albany Park Road, Bank Lane and Lower Ham Road. Restrictions will be in force for all spaces on these roads between 11am and 2pm Monday to Saturday.

ATTACK FINE: A Surbiton man has been fined for beating up another man on New Year's Eve. Fred Wykes, 22, of Donald Woods Gardens, must pay £225 plus £120 compensation after the fight outside the Slug and Lettuce in Wimbledon. Wykes admitted the attack at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on Thursday, February 18.

ABROAD STORY: If you have moved to Kingston from abroad then researchers at Kingston History Centre want to hear your story. The Fresh Starts Project aims to piece together how Kingston's multi-cultural communities came to be. To take part or for more information visit goo.gl/izLXSM

Marching guinea pigs honour goat-boy



Parade: The Seething Festival saw an array of people, animals and cheese took to the streets of Surbiton

A TIN of sardines, cheese wedges and guinea pigs paraded through Surbiton to celebrate the Seething Festival.

Crowd gathered to watch and take part in the festival on Sunday taking in music from The Curious Sounds, who set up camp in St Andrew's Square.

Lefi the goat-boy, the star of the parade, was accompanied by a host of people, objects and animals.

The legend of Lefi Ganderson, the goat-boy, tells that every four years the Seething villagers do something to help others in honour of the goat-boy's selflessness in saving the town from a giant. This makes the arrival of the leap year of particular significance in 2016.

Anyone who wanted to make a pledge of a good deed was asked to write a note and deposit it in the box at the Lamb pub.

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Labour mayoral candidate Khan criticises rival's stance on EU

'Any good London mayor would not back Brexit'

REPORTER
RACHAEL BURFORD
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KINGSTON'S MPs are divided on whether the UK should remain in the European Union.

Kingston and Surbiton MP James Berry has said he will vote to stay in June's referendum, while north Kingston's Zac Goldsmith has backed Britain's exit, or Brexit, campaign.

London mayoral candidate Mr Goldsmith, whose father started the short-lived Eurosceptic Referendum Party, said he will vote to leave, along with current Mayor Boris Johnson, because of "democratic accountability".

Despite about three million immigrants calling the capital home, Mr Goldsmith does not think his decision will harm his campaign.

He said: "The next Mayor's job is not to keep us in or out of Europe and it is not directly relevant to the mayoral contest. I don't think elected politicians should flip-flop on the big issues."

Mr Goldsmith's Labour rival Sadiq Khan said any 'good' London mayor would vote for the union.



Vote: James Berry, left, with Brexit advocate Boris Johnson

He said: "I think it is impossible to be a good Mayor of London and not be pro-Europe – more than half of London's manufacturing is exported to Europe."

Mr Berry said that while he will vote to stay in the EU he is also a Eurosceptic and will not actively campaign for the 'In' faction.

He said: "My heart might want to vote to leave because I do find some of the EU policies restricting for the UK.

"But having actively analysed what is on the table at the moment my head tells me the right decision is to stay in.

"I was surprised by the number of London MPs who have announced they'll vote to leave."

Rotarian's trip to help fight polio

A KINGSTON Rotarian has travelled to India as part of a mission to immunise more than 172 million children from polio.

Paul Hickson, 62, of Blakedon Drive, Claygate, joined 106 volunteers from Rotary groups across Great Britain and Ireland to help issue vaccines to children in the country.

A regular at the Kingston Rotary club, Mr Hickson will be joined by volunteers from Belgium, Luxemburg, the USA and Japan.

He said: "Since making the pledge in 1985 to eradicate polio, Rotarians have pulled together to combat the disease all over the world. It's important that we don't lose momentum if we are going to beat this disease.

"Travelling to India and working with fellow Rotarians illustrates how important it is to be involved in community projects that are not just on your doorstep."

Mr Hickson made the journey as part of a drive for National Immunisation Day on February 21 to vaccinate children under the age of five in India.

Though India was declared polio-free in 2014, cases in neighbouring Pakistan mean immunisation remains a priority.

Mr Hickson made the journey alongside his wife Christine.



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MP helps on safety

THE search is on for a new lollipop person to serve the crossings for children at two schools.

Kingston and Surbiton MP James Berry is leading the charge by working with Transport for London (TfL) and Kingston Council to make a crossing outside Our Lady Immaculate School safe.

He was looking into the crossing outside the school – which sometimes remains on a green man with traffic still coming through, but an assessment is still waited on – and came up with the idea of a temporary lollipop person.

The council confirmed money would be available for the temporary post, but when Mr Berry spoke to headmaster Timothy Sheenan he said they had tried to recruit about two years ago but did not have any applicants.

Tolworth Junior School is also now looking for a new lollipop person, as the previous traffic warden has just retired aged 83.

Mr Berry said: "TfL are investigating the crossings by Our Lady Immaculate but until this is resolved we really need a lollipop person to help the children cross safely. Tolworth Juniors are also looking for a lollipop person."

Anyone interested should contact the schools.

Average cost shoots up £150k to £570k meaning salary of £114k and £57k savings a must

Soaring house prices leave home ownership out of reach of most

REPORTER
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HOME buyers must earn £114,000 a year and have £57,000 savings to get on the borough's property ladder.

The average Kingston resident pulls down a £32,000 salary, according to Kingston Council figures, and owning a home of their own seems increasingly unlikely without significant financial help, particularly for the younger generation.

House prices in Kingston are soaring by more than five per cent a year, and the average home now costs £570,747 – almost £150,000 more than five years ago.

Mortgage lenders expect prospective buyers to put down a 10 per cent deposit and borrow 4.5 times their annual earnings.

Across the country, one-in-five young adults aged 25 to 29 still live with their parents, the Office for National Statistics has said.



House prices have been steadily rising in Kingston for years

Ellie Watmuff, 28, grew up in Richmond with her parents and was saving to buy a house in south-west London. She moved out and became a renter last year.

She said: "Despite having a good career with a decent salary, the only viable way for me to be able to save anything towards a home of my own with my then-boyfriend was to continue living with my parents into my mid to late 20s.

"The impact this had on my personal life was huge. Following the breakdown of my relationship, I abandoned plans to be a homeowner so I could stop living life 'on hold'. I balk when I consider the amount of my pay that goes into rent and bills each month, but owning a home in London is something I've accepted will not happen unless I win the lottery, so I'd rather enjoy the lifestyle of living in a big city while I can instead of worrying about mortgage repayments."



Ellie Watmuff, 28

Kingston and Surbiton MP James Berry, who has just bought a home in Surbiton, said residents might have to get used to "tower block living" if there are to be enough homes to go around.

He said: "My main concern is people who work as teachers, nurses, and so on not being able to afford to move into homes in Kingston.

"Most people you speak to agree we need more houses but, in Kingston especially, gaining planning permission is difficult. We have to encourage more affordable homes and shared ownership schemes. I don't like tower blocks but they may be one of the answers."

Lawrence Hall, from property website Zoopla, said: "Kingston is expected to continue performing well given the amenities and attractiveness to families who may have been priced out of more central London locations. This is reflected in the fact the average value of a property in the borough has increased by almost 5.19 per cent in the past 12 months."

Justin Gregory, 27, has just bought a home in Surbiton, but said he relied on his parents' help.

He said: "Having your own home gives you more flexibility and property is the best investment. I lived at home for three-and-a-half years. I didn't pay rent and my parents helped with the deposit."

See a slideshow of the cheapest and most expensive streets in Kingston at kingstonguardian.co.uk.



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Travellers and squatters occupied 'eyesore' site after closure in 2012

Developers set to demolish derelict pub for new hotel

REPORTER
JON MITCHELL
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Hotel designs: Worcester Park Tavern has been empty since 2012

A DERELICT Worcester Park pub left abandoned for the last four years could soon be demolished and replaced by a hotel.

Owners of the Worcester Park Tavern, in Park Terrace, are expected to submit a planning application in the coming months to demolish the pub and build a hotel on the site, which has been deserted since it was sold in 2012.

Since the sale, residents have campaigned to see the site brought back into use after its state became dilapidated and travellers and squatters began to use the site.

June Fraser, of Vale Road, Worcester Park, has been running a social media campaign attempting to save the building.

She said: "The building has been rotting away. The local feeling is still very strong. It is an awful shame that it is going to be knocked down.

"Worcester Park doesn't really have that many pubs so actually I think we need one. Reluctantly I'm sort of accepting they are going to knock the building down, provided they employ local people."

Previous owners The Spirit Pub Company sold the pub to hotel company Shahrastani Development Limited in 2012, but owner Shiraz Boghani has yet to develop the site.

Soon after the sale travellers moved into the abandoned car park and in July 2013 the pub became the home of a group of homeless people.

New Malden councillor David Fraser said: "The thing is there is no actual application in yet. The sooner something is done the better. It is a shambles, an eyesore.

"It is a main road, it is near the station. A hotel would be welcome with the local people."

In 2014, The Shia Ismaili community proposed to the owner to convert the pub into a community centre, but the group decided on a different site after a petition from residents gathered more than 1,700 signatures. Mr Boghani was unavailable for comment.

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Garage: Cllr Roy Arora with Cllr Cathy Roberts and the Brown family

Garages transformed into homes by council

REPORTER
ELLIE CAMBRIDGE
ellie.cambridge@london.newsquest.co.uk

OLD laundry rooms and garages have been converted into council homes by Kingston Council.

As part of the constant battle to find homes during a housing shortage, a joint venture from the council and the Greater London Authority (GLA) has converted 14 garages and laundry rooms on two estates.

It cost £413,000 – £103,250 from the council and £309,750 from the GLA – to convert the buildings into two- and three-bedroom flats.

Kirsty Brown, whose family has lived in the Cambridge Road estate for 16 years, said: "This has made such a difference for us – we had our first Christmas in the lovely, big living room and it was just so wonderful not to have to worry about space."

In December 2014 it was reported nearly 1,800 people waited between two and five years for a council home in the borough.

Harry Hall, chairman of the Cambridge Road estate residents' association, said people living in the new homes were happy with them but that he thought no more would be built ahead of the regeneration planned for Kingston's estates.

Cllr Cathy Roberts, cabinet member with responsibility for housing, said: "This project is still in the very early stages, with work not planned for several years, and we need to manage our housing stock in the meantime.

Cllr Tricia Bamford, former Liberal Democrat lead member for housing, said: "They are just carrying on what we started really."

Renaisi, an independent company which specialises in regeneration, plans to meet residents in the Cambridge Road estate as part of the build-up to the 15-year regeneration project planned for council estates in Kingston.

In June 2014 a claim emerged the council could be losing out on £400,000-a-year in rent by not letting out hundreds of garages.

Music finally stops at Hands

THE borough's last remaining independent instrument shop has closed after 50 years trading.

Hands Music, just off Market Place, in Griffin Centre, closed its doors for good on Sunday, February 21, after reportedly going into receivership.

Men were spotted clearing instruments and equipment from the shop last week. The shop's website has also been closed down but a post on the store's Facebook page read: "It is very sad to announce but due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to cease trading.

"We would like to thank everyone that has experienced Hands Music over the past 50 years and helped make the shop the exciting, vibrant and amazing place it's been. Keep playing, guys."



Hands Music Store has closed

The shop opened in 1966. A note posted in the window said: "I cannot express my gratitude to all the staff that helped shape Hands throughout our 50 years."

The closure sparked a flurry of posts online mourning the loss.

Crushed builder named

A POLISH builder who died after being crushed by a wall in a Worcester Park street has been named as Grzegorz Wrezel.

Mr Wrezel, believed to be in his 40s, was crushed by a collapsing wall in Manor Way, Worcester Park, at 10.40am on February 3. He died in hospital a week later.

He was reportedly working with a fellow builder on a house there for about two weeks before the accident happened.

Manor Way resident Doug Curwen said: "They were doing an extension at the back of the house. I went to have a look and the wall was out across his head and body.

"There must have been in total about 30 police and ambulance crews out."

An advanced paramedic, a hazardous area response team and London's Air Ambulance were all sent to the site.

An inquest will be held in due course.

Graduate's design fame

AN EX-KINGSTON University student is on his way to becoming one of London's top fashion designers, with a celebrity following including Russell Brand.

Joshua Kane, 31, who studied fashion design at Kingston University, set up his own eponymous shop in the Old Spitalfields Market, in central London, three years ago.

He has since built a cult following and run fashion shows across the country, with footballers and film stars regulars at the shop.

He said: "The opportunity was right, I was 28 and I'd built up sort of a reputation. I had the assurance people wanted it.

"I had a studio in my house and was making my own bits and pieces. I basically converted my living room into a show room.

"The first person who came into my house to buy a suit was Russell Brand. That was really just the beginning."

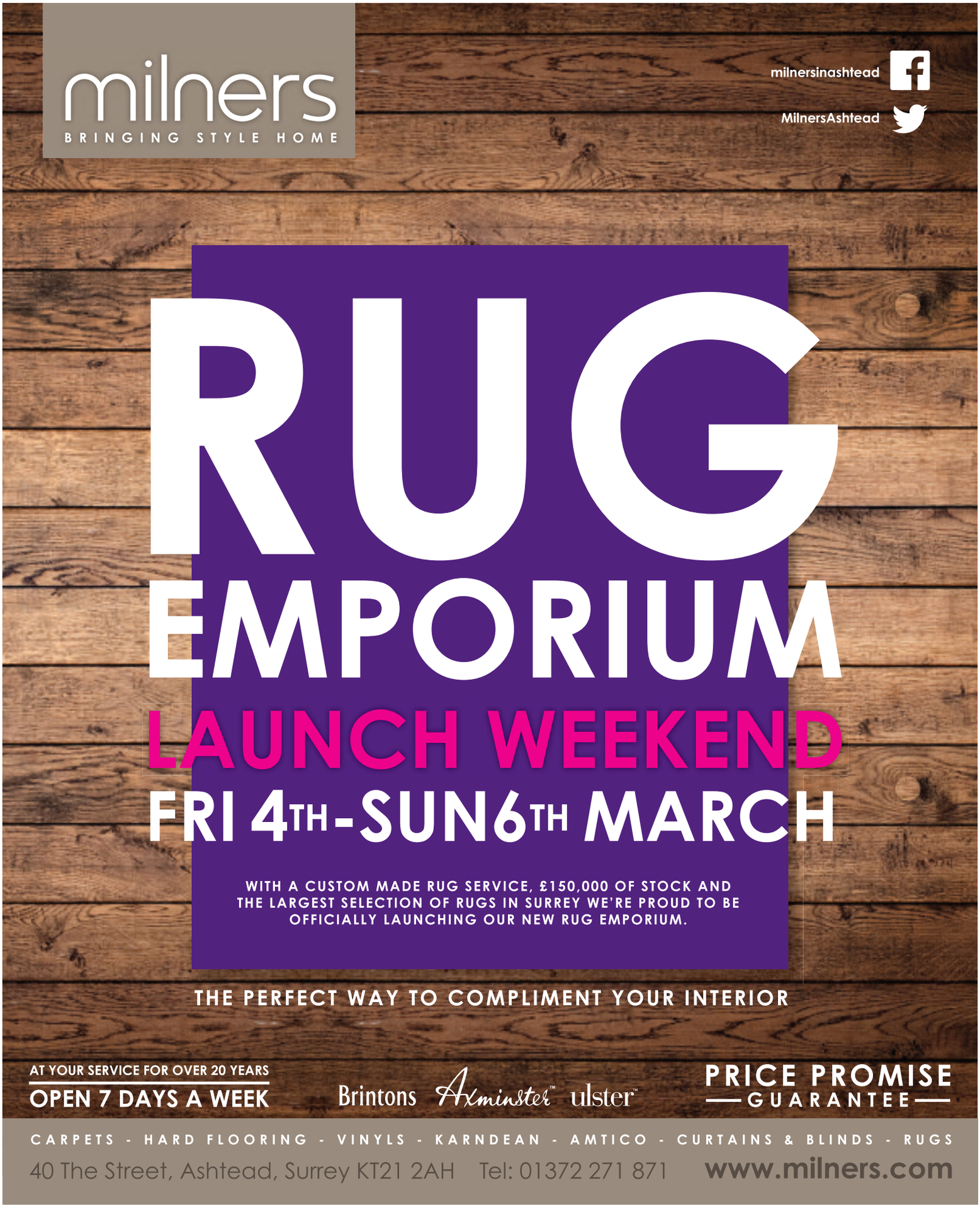
A keen skateboarder and Fulham FC goalkeeper as a teenager, he put his sporting ambitions to one side as his love of fashion grew and he moved to study at Kingston University.

There he was taught the basics of fashion design and making clothes, and was able to visit New York for a design project.

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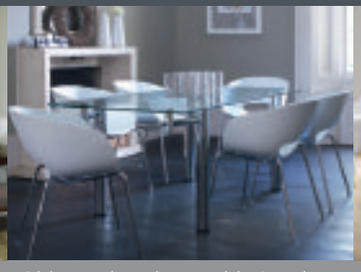
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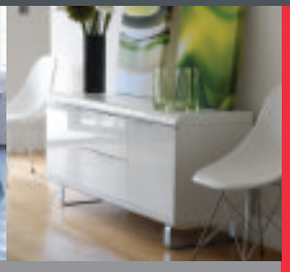
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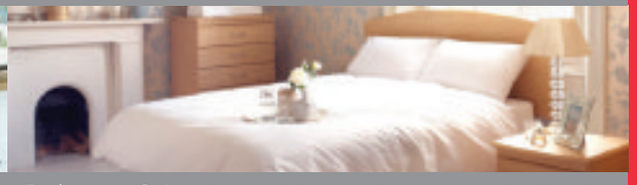
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Sunday 6th March 11am-4pm

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ONLINE: All your letters in full online at **kingstonguardian.co.uk/yoursay**

Letters may be edited for space, clarity and legal reasons

ONLINE OPINION

Comment on stories at **kingstonguardian.co.uk**

APPROVED: 16 storey development on the old post office site in Kingston passed by councillors

The only way to properly fix democracy in this country is to reform the voting system - the UK needs to drag itself out of the dark ages and use PR - proportional representation.
Liberals, the Greens, UKIP, SNP, Plaid Cymru, are all in favour of fairer, more representative voting. Until Labour wake up to a Tory dominated future, and jump aboard the PR wagon, we're doomed to one party Tory rule that benefits only them and their property developer bankrollers.

CAPTAIN_SHAMROCK

This will not ruin the town; making good use of a run-down abandoned area will only improve the attractiveness of the town centre.

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If complaining about third party comments on our website articles, you should use the 'report this post' function online next to the comment.

Suicide not inevitable

IN 2014, more than 6,000 people in the UK died through suicide.

To reduce suicide as a society, we need to work across promotion, prevention and protection – building people's skills in emotional resilience from a young age, ensuring good services and support are available to help people through difficulty and support them in a crisis.

Carrying out an audit of training throughout the UK to pinpoint what is most effective would be a good first step. Samaritans is calling on the government and MPs to use their influence to get the message out about the need for more suicide prevention training.

We know NHS staff are doing brilliant work; however, widening participation could increase expertise and save lives.

Samaritans' six-year partnership with Network Rail has convinced us how effective the right training can be.

Suicide is not inevitable, it's preventable. Samaritans believes that by working in partnership with others, fewer people will die by suicide.

But you don't have to be suicidal to call us. Whatever you're going through, call us free any time from any phone on 116 123.

RUTH SUTHERLAND
CEO, Samaritans

Borough view



Colin Evans sent in this photo of the sun setting over Tolworth. To see your photo featured in Borough View, email it, along with details of where you took it, to rachael.burford@london.newsquest.co.uk

Unsurprising

IT'S not surprising Zac Goldsmith has announced he will be campaigning for Britain to leave the EU.

However, this confirmation must surely put in doubt his chances of becoming Mayor of London.

How can any serious or credible candidate think leaving the EU is good for London?

How can one of the biggest cities in the world be better off without a voice in shaping rules that relate to our economy, security or the environment?

The EU has provided an environment in which peace, stability and trade have grown and contributed to the world's biggest single market.

Not only has it helped secure a British and a European economy in a globalised world, it helps tackle the problems of today and tomorrow such as terrorism, climate change and cross-border crime.

Does he believe Londoners want a mayor that focuses on the past and not one who is forward and outward looking?

MICHAEL WILSON
Whitton

Relative help

I AM hoping readers can help me trace Rosemary Knight, née Avery, who in 1990 lived at 58 Grand Avenue, Berrylands.

She is a cousin I have never met.

All I know about Rosemary is that she is married with two daughters and a son and one grandchild. If anyone knows of Rosemary's whereabouts and can contact me through the paper I would be very grateful.

VIVIENNE KELLEWAY
West Ewell

Kingston's not an experiment

SO THE leader of Kingston Council, Kevin Davis, is to attend a developers' junket in Cannes to promote Kingston as a suitable place for development.

He has said: "The Royal Borough of Kingston is working with land owners and developers to shape the physical character of the borough. If you've got a good idea and want to try it out then rest assured Kingston is the place to be."

What an extraordinary statement. Has the council given up on planning? Is Kingston to be there for experiments?

The proposals for two vast schemes in the town centre have been bitterly opposed by residents who can see little or no benefit to them as they can only enrich the developers and blight the character of our town.

None of the residential units will be anywhere near "affordable". And where are these sites that will be available for development? Are we to see even more of our town torn apart?

The current administration seems to have little interest in the views of those who elected them to power. This mania for redevelopment, regardless of need, must be curbed or Kingston will become a mini-Croydon, and look how that town has turned out.

BRIAN GODDING
Chairman, the Kingston Society

Concern

I READ with concern your report of an elderly man being tricked into giving his bank details to someone he thought was a friend (Fraudster targeted pensioner, February 19).

It is a terrible thing to imagine a pensioner thinking they have found someone to trust, and to then find they were part of a despicable plan all along. I was pleased to read the culprit was caught and was convicted.

I wonder if anyone else was shocked he had already spent his jail time while waiting for the trial? The family of the victim must have been shocked his crimes were worthy of jail, but that he walked free.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Booking fees, the QEII bridge and those dog's cocks!

Editor Andrew Parkes has a number of thoughts every week, here are just five of them

5 THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK...

1. What a complete rip off booking fees are. They're absurd, everyone has to book, you have no choice, so why not simply increase the price of the seat? Even at local theatres some of these booking fees are £2.50 per ticket. You see the advertised cost of the seat and then when you turn up you find the actual cost is 25 per cent higher. As best you're being tricked into thinking the ticket is cheaper, at worst you're just being ripped off.

2. Why exactly do pregnant women get the urge to lick coal? Other strange desires can include soap, chalk and even cigarette ash. However, more commonly their cravings are aimed at recognised foodstuffs. I've discovered women often crave foods in pregnancy they have previously disliked. Their children then seem seem to grow up liking or hating the very same things they hated or liked during pregnancy.

3. The Dartford Crossing is every motorist's nightmare. It's a traffic jam waiting to happen and has caused misery for decades. But as soon as we get a plan to build another crossing everyone is up in arms saying that wherever it will be built it will be an outrage. From what I can see we currently have two different sets of Nimbys arguing against a crossing near them. My solution would be double the investment and build both crossings – that way everyone but the Nimbys wins.



4. I have a real thing about the use of apostrophes, though surely the exclamation mark has become the real cockroach of the punctuation world. In journalism circles it has a number of unsavoury nicknames. But its proliferation should not be welcomed.

5. Finally, it's not long now until we will officially celebrate our glorious monarch's 90th birthday. A whole host of celebrations are planned for May 12-15. One reader has suggested this will not be enough and to mark the occasion we rename the British Army as the Royal Army. Well we do have a Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

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CARING HOMES

Film crew were shocked when armed police were called out to cafe set

Armed police descend on cafe in film shoot call-out

REPORTER
GEORGE ODLING
george.odling@london.newsquest.co.uk



Tarryn Meaker with the armed police outside the coffee house (Credit Robyn Harper)

A FILM crew got the fright of their lives when their prop guns were mistaken for real ones and armed police officers interrupted their shoot.

Tarryn Meaker was shooting a short film, *That Day Comes*, near Kingston bridge on Sunday, February 21, when police armed with automatic weapons swarmed the set.

The film maker had informed the Metropolitan Police about the shoot, at Hussar's Coffee House in Hampton Wick, but said there must have been a breakdown in communications after Surrey Police officers were called to reports of men wielding handguns in the coffee house.

She said: "Someone obviously saw, panicked, called the police and decided not to stick around.

"The poor police officers arrived ready to go with real guns, which was unexpected.

"I'm from South Africa so the guns didn't bother me too much.

"I think I was most worried I hadn't done something I should have.

"I was more worried we might get shut down than anything else, because I just wouldn't be able to afford it."

Ms Meaker plans to submit the film at festivals including the Cannes Short Film Corner.

She has described the short as a redemption tale and said she felt awful that the highly-trained police team had been called out for a false alarm.

But she added she was encouraged by their speedy response.

She said: "The police were awesome.

"Where I grew up, if you call the police and say there's a guy with a gun here, maybe they will arrive in an hour or so, but these guys were so quick.

"I would like to send them a thank you for being so understanding."

Ms Meaker is an actress and director who has appeared in films Racing Stripes and Wake of Death.



Dr Ibraham Crono at the Royal Oak, New Malden

Steampunk fest to return

INFLATABLE ostrich racing, a monkey butler, snail racing and a reptile zoo were all on show when Surrey Steampunk Convivial festival returned to the Royal Oak, in New Malden.

Inspired by authors such as Jules Verne and HG Wells, the steampunk movement combines elements of fantasy, sci-fi and futuristic technology within the Victorian era. The festival, on February 20 is organised by husband and wife Ben and Tixia Henderson who also make up a steampunk musical group named Moth. It will be returning later this year from Friday, July 29, to Sunday, July 31.

Advertisement Feature

Special KINGSTON GUARDIAN *Reader Offer*

Breakthrough relief for back pain and sciatica



By Sam Potter

IF YOU suffer from low back pain and sciatica, you are one of over 20 million adults in the UK with this often crippling spinal condition.

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the low back, sometimes with additional pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all symptoms of a pinched nerves often called "sciatica".

In severe cases, it can lead to muscle wasting, numbness and constant tingling down to the tip of the toes. Left untreated, the intense pain can rapidly wear you down and drain the joy out of life.

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According to director Ryan, "We use a combination of advanced technology and specific examination techniques, for precisely diagnosing the cause of your low back pain and sciatica; and a unique programme for reconstructing the damaged area causing the pain; this means superior long-term results for most people."

Because the treatment is non-surgical, safe and easy, most patients report an almost immediate relief from their pain.

Patient Jeff P. from London says, "My back pain was unbearable but the worst thing was the searing burning pain I felt in my buttock and leg.

I couldn't work or do anything useful and the drugs my GP prescribed hardly did anything.

My wife insisted I respond to one of these ads, I thought it would be a total waste of time, but I'm so glad she kept on at me.

Thank god I called your number, I'm 95% better in just a couple of weeks."

Your invitation for a comprehensive consultation and examination to pinpoint the cause of your low back pain and sciatica...

(paper name) has teamed up with the spine therapy specialists at Atlas Wellness Centre, to help readers find relief from their persistent back and sciatic pain.

All you have to do to receive a thorough diagnostic examination with the most advanced technology in the world and a comprehensive easy to understand report on your state of health is call your local clinic listed on right.

Mention this article (CODE: Halsa1) and the team will happily reduce their usual consultation fee of £110 to just £30. But hurry, due to obvious reasons – this is a time limited offer – with only 100 reader consultations available at this exclusively discounted rate.

My advice, don't suffer a moment longer...

Find out if Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care can help you, book a consultation with the Halsa team now by calling your local Kingston clinic, they are waiting to take your call today.

They actually treat the cause of your health problem, not just your symptoms.

That's why hundreds of grateful patients tell them "You gave me back my life!"

Over the years, they've treated thousands of patients with back problems and sciatica. The vast majority of them have enjoyed superior, lasting relief. In fact, many who've suffered and have tried other remedies have told them they gave them back their lives!

Call them now and get a full and thorough examination to pinpoint the cause of your problem for just £30, the normal cost of such an exam is £110 so you will save £80!

Don't suffer from the pain and immobility any longer. Discover the natural treatment that can eliminate the cause of your problem and give you the safe, lasting relief you deserve.

Call them now on the numbers listed on the right and cut out or tear off this valuable article now and take it to your appointment. You'll be entitled to a comprehensive examination to diagnose the cause of your problem – and you'll be on your way to safe, lasting relief! Don't delay your important diagnosis and treatment another moment!

You can even call on the weekend and leave a message on their answer machine to secure your spot as they promise to return all calls; and during the week they are very busy, so if they don't pick up straight away do leave a message.

For obvious reasons they can't help everyone at this reduced price, so please call soon to secure your special opportunity.



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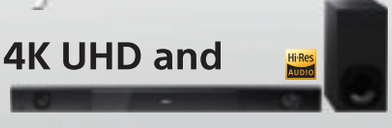


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DANE BAPTISTE

THIS WEEK'S REASONS TO GO OUT

COMEDY **Dane Baptiste at Epsom Playhouse on Friday.** The Independent's Face to Watch in 2015, Hither Green comedian Dane Baptiste brings his new show Reasonable Doubts to Epsom. Tickets cost £12. Go to epsomplayhouse.co.uk

MUSIC **British Comic Opera at Omnibus, Clapham, on Saturday.** A collective of singers bring some fun to the form with a big bag of tricks from songs to improvised opera delivered to your cocktail table. Tickets cost £12 or £10 concessions. Go to omnibus-clapham.org or call 020 7498 4699.

THEATRE **Let it Be at New Wimbledon Theatre from Monday to Saturday.** Relive the magic of The Beatles with the musical that follows their rise from humble beginnings in Liverpool to being the biggest band in the world and features more than 40 of their greatest hits. Tickets from £16.90. Go to atgtickets.com/wimbledon

MUSIC **Dead Before Mourning at Scream Lounge, Croydon, from 8pm on Saturday.** Get ready to rock out with a trio of thrash metal bands – Hydra, With a Vengence and Dead Before Mourning – at Scream Lounge. Doors open at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £5 and it's over 16s only. For further details visit screamlounge.com.

THEATRE **Reduced Shakespeare Company – The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised] at The Secombe, Sutton, on Tuesday, March 8.** Want to get to grips with Shakespeare but finding yourself short on time? The Reduced Shakespeare Company rattles through all 37 plays in one madcap, laugh-out-loud 97 minute show. Tickets cost £17.50 adults or £15.50. Go to suttontheatres.co.uk

What's on



Television chef James Martin brings his tour to Fairfield Halls this month. He talks to JIM PALMER about his career from humble beginnings in Wandsworth to fronting Saturday Kitchen...

KING of the KITCHEN

Celebrity chef James Martin is getting out of the kitchen and heading out on the road for a live show that is unlike anything he has ever done before.

Having spent more than 25 years working in top kitchens and marking his 20th on the television in 2016, James has decided to go on tour with James Martin: Plates, Mates and Automobiles.

Tackling more than just great food, the show encompasses everything James is passionate about.

He told us: "We have put together this action-packed fun show: food meets cars meets mates.

"There's a bit of everything. It will surprise a lot of people. It's not a cooking demo. There is food in it, of course, but there is a bit of something for everybody. I wanted it to be a great night out."

James, 43, said he was first approached to do a live tour 15 years ago and has always said no to the idea. He said: "Then I spent the last five years watching everyone else do them – the Hairy Bikers, Paul Hollywood and Gino D'Acampo."

For his own show, James was keen to get the right team behind him and partnered up with Live Nation, who have organised 145,000 events worldwide and he embraced the blank slate he was faced with when putting the show together.

He said: "We have come up with something you've never seen before. I have got 50 of my mates taking part. Everybody from current and ex-F1 drivers to one of the greatest chefs in the world in Mary Berry."

It is well-known that James is a proud Yorkshireman but as a young chef he worked in some of the capital's top restaurants. He even had a spell at Marco Pierre White's two-Michelin starred Harvey's (now Chez Bruce) in Wandsworth, where Gordon Ramsey cut his teeth.

James said: "I spent most of my time wandering around London thinking 'what the hell am I doing here? I'm from a farmhouse in north Yorkshire'.

"There were only five restaurants where you had to work as a chef if you wanted to be mega or train with mega chefs, and in Wandsworth there was Harvey's. There wasn't anywhere else. Gordon Ramsey was still at Harvey's then."

Not long after he left Wandsworth, James opened his first restaurant in Hampshire, aged just 22.

A few months later he made his first television appearance and began a professional life juggling the restaurant business and TV that continues 20 years on.

"I do remember my first appearance. It was on show called Sky One to Three, which was a live show in the afternoon. I cooked for Kylie Minogue on the first day and the Bee Gees on the second. It was surreal."

The show may have been forgotten by history by James still remembers the nerves. He said: "I was proper bricking it. I'm bricking it every Saturday but I don't show it any more.

"I went to the Rugby World Cup and you're in Twickenham and they go '80,000 people' and you look round and go 'that's a lot of people'.

"Then I get the viewing figures for Saturday Kitchen and they say 3.2 million. It puts it in perspective."

Saturday Kitchen, which regularly attracts such massive figures with its combination of food and chat, was a cornerstone of James' success (he announced last week that he was leaving after a decade fronting the show) which also includes several television series and 16 cook books.

The key to his success and longevity, James said, is staying true to himself and not courting fame.

He said: "I don't follow trends. All this sugar, salt thing – I don't have an opinion on it. People can make their own choices. I just carry on and cook the food I like to cook and hopefully make it interesting for people to do at home."

James Martin: Plates, Mates and Automobiles is at Croydon's Fairfield Halls on March 17. Go to Fairfield.co.uk

WHAT'S MY VIBE?

He has performed at Miranda's birthday bash and as a kid he idolised Tom Cruise – these are just two of the things we learned when we asked Strictly Come Dancing's Ian Waite What's My Vibe?

He is currently on tour with his show A Touch of Class with fellow Strictly pro Natalie Lowe (both pictured).

The show stops at Epsom Playhouse on April 17, Fairfield Halls in Croydon on May 1 and Kingston's Rose Theatre on May 22. We asked Ian what entertains him…

MUSIC

The radio station I listen to… Normally Capital FM but I can't always get a signal so then its BBC Radio 2.

My favourite band… Hurts. I once met Theo the lead singer in the club Mahiki.

The album or song I can't get enough of right now… Adele – 25.

My favourite place to hear live music… I don't go very often but Brixton Academy.

THEATRE AND COMEDY

I always laugh at… Miranda. We performed at her 40th birthday party.

Best play I have seen… Dead Poets' Society.

My favourite place to watch a show… The West End. I go there at least once a week.

TV AND FILM

My favourite movie is… Singin' in the Rain because Gene Kelly was my favourite.

As a kid I loved… Tom Cruise. I collected all of his films.



Exhibitionism opens at the Saatchi Gallery on April 6 and runs until September providing a comprehensive insight into the Rolling Stones including over 500 unseen artefacts. The band may have gone on to conquer the world, but it all started closer to home…



Mick Jagger, Ronnie Wood Keith Richards, and Charlie Watts

LIVES of LEGENDS

Chastillian Road, Dartford – The childhood home of Keith Richards.

Spielman Road, Temple Hill, Dartford – Keith Richards lived here as a teenager.

Miall Road, Sydenham – Original Stones bassist Bill Wyman was born in Lewisham Hospital in 1936 and grew up in Miall Road.

Denver Road, Dartford – Mick Jagger's childhood home.

Wentworth Primary School, Dartford – Mick and Keith both attended Wentworth Primary School from 1951.

Dartford Grammar School – Where Mick Jagger went to school. He left in 1961 with seven O-Levels and two A-Levels.

Dartford Technical College – Keith was reportedly expelled in 1959 for truancy.

Sidcup Art College – After leaving Dartford Technical School, promising artist Keith studied in Sidcup.

Beckenham and Penge County Grammar School – Attended by Bill Wyman from 1947 to 1953.

Bexley Hospital, Bexley – Where Mick worked as a teenager in the 1950s. He was a porter and reportedly lost his virginity in a cupboard with a nurse.

Dartford Train Station – The meeting that changed the face of pop music. On October 17, 1961, Mick Jagger was on his way to classes at the London School of Economics. Keith Richards, carrying his guitar, was on his way to Sidcup. They recognised each other and struck up conversation over the records Mick was carrying.

The Red Lion, Sutton High Street – The Stones played here several times in the early 1960s. Now called The Winning Post, the pub hosted a gig by the band in 1963 that was attended by just 30 people, but one of them was a promoter who signed them up for their breakthrough residency at the Crawdaddy Club.

The Crawdaddy Club (The Station Hotel), Richmond – The Rolling Stones made a name for themselves in the early 1960s with regular slots here.

Eel Pie Island, Richmond – The legendary 1960s venue hosted the biggest names in music, from Bowie to The Who. The Stones had a weekly show there by 1963.

Cheyne Walk, Chelsea – With their career approaching its peak, Mick and Keith bought houses in the more exclusive Cheyne Walk.

Sticky Fingers, Kensington – Bill Wyman's restaurant, a must-visit for Stones fans, named after the band's 1971 album.

Hyde Park – Days after the death of founder-member Brian Jones in 1969, the Stones played an era-defining free concert in Hyde Park. They returned to the venue in 2013 as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations.

Full list at kingstonguardian.co.uk/leisure and for details about the exhibition go to stonesexhibitionism.com



Bill Wyman

CRAZY COOKING

Comedian George Egg's stand-up show is guaranteed to be unlike anything you have seen on stage.

The Forest Hill funnyman's acclaimed Anarchist Cook show not only brings the laughs but uses his hour to make a delicious meal using only things you would find in a budget hotel room.

As you can imagine, the touring comic's show grew organically as he became disillusioned with the food on offer on high streets and room service at the towns he was gigging.

The resultant show was an sell-out at the Edinburgh Fringe.

We asked George to share some of the secrets of Anarchist Cooking with us – you'll find his simple recipe for scrambled egg on toast online **kingstonguardian.co.uk/leisure**. You'll have to see the show to find out how he makes the likes of fresh bread, cured salmon and more.

George Egg: Anarchist Cook is at The Cryer in Carshalton on March 12 (£10/£8, at suttontheatres.co.uk) and Soho Theatre on May 20 and 21 (£12.50/£10 at sohotheatre.com).



George Egg

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FILM REVIEW: HAIL, CAESAR!

BY DAVID KAYE

A critic once said that in a perfect world, all movies would be made by the Coen Brothers. It's a sentiment that this writer certainly agrees with.

Their body of work is second to none, so it is with no small amount of excitement, that one would bound in to the local cinema to see their new offering, Hail, Caesar!

The plot promises to froth with Coen-esque wicked humour, intrigue and satire.

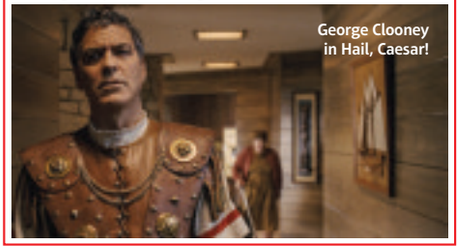
Combined with a stellar cast, this is a recipe for sweet movie gold. But as with all things, the proof is in the pudding.

The film begins promisingly enough, with the familiar Coen pacing and character building.

Set in a film studios the early 1950s, leading man Baird Whitlock (George Clooney) is kidnapped while filming the epic Hail, Caesar! Studio fixer Eddie Mannix (Josh Brolin) is tasked with getting him back, among twisting sideplots involving a disgruntled director (Ralph Fiennes), a beautiful actress who has fallen pregnant (Scarlett Johansson) and a mysterious tap-dancing actor (Channing Tatum)

But more and more characters are introduced (with a cast also including Jonah Hill, Frances McDormand and Dolph Lundgren), and though the makers set out to expertly weave their narratives as well as follow the central plot, the thread somewhat unravels, and we are left with a rather meandering tale.

It is punctuated with knowing satire and commanding performances, but little time is taken to invest in the characters and their problems. The Coens it seems, have fallen for their typically brilliant bit-part characters, at the expense of their central hero, Josh Brolin's Eddie Mannix.



George Clooney in Hail, Caesar!



LONDON FALLING

London is in extreme danger on the big screen this week when London Has Fallen comes to cinemas.

Given the film's title, it won't surprise you that some biggest landmarks go up in smoke in the follow-up to 2013's Olympus Has Fallen. Here's some to look out for…

St Paul's Cathedral

When the British Prime Minister dies, the world's leaders come to London for his funeral at St Paul's Cathedral. And that's when the bad guys strike. A scale model of the landmark was built at Nu Boyana Studios in Bulgaria.

Trafalgar Square

Nelson's column, the National Gallery and the fourth plinth – it's a high-traffic spot but will it escape unscathed?

Buckingham Palace

Surrounded by armed guards, surely you would not dare try to pull a terrorist stunt at the palace…

Mayfair, Embankment, Soho and east London

As conflict engulfs the capital, expect to see notable streets in Mayfair, Soho and east London taking a battering. Again, these were shot not on location but on sets built in Bulgaria. Penge, we assume, is safe.

Somerset House

Headlines were made last year when film crews took over Somerset House, off The Strand, for some dramatic helicopter scenes.

Hyde Park

A big, wide open space in the middle of London – the perfect place to crash land a helicopter. Langley Park in Buckinghamshire doubled as the iconic park.

Big Ben

The iconic clock tower is shown mid-explosion on promotional posters (see above).

Houses of Parliament

Not quite what Guy Fawkes had in mind 411 years ago but the baddies give it a good seeing-to.

Chelsea Bridge

Get ready to say sayonara to the bridge linking Battersea and Chelsea. The trailer shows it getting dramatically blasted.

Battersea Park

Battersea Park was used by the film crew as a double for a park in Washington DC where Banning and the President go for a jog.

Charing Cross tube

The president and his bodyguard confront a gang of marauding terrorists in a deserted tube station. And you thought your commute was bad.

Chelsea Bridge

Get ready to say sayonara to the bridge linking Battersea and Chelsea. The trailer shows it getting dramatically blasted.

London Has Fallen (15) is out now. Go to yourlocalguardian.co.uk/whatson to read our review.

INDIANARTS

Merton will come alive with the sound of Indian music and poetry this month, ***writes Tim Redigolo***.

The Ghazal, Thumri and Kheyal Festival celebrates the three distinct forms of Indian classical music and poetry.

It includes performances at Raynes Park Library on March 5 and Morden Assembly Hall on March 12 and is organised by Saudha, the society of poetry and Indian music.

Festival director Ahmed Kaysher said: "What we are trying to develop is quite unique.

"It is more or less pure Indian classical music, or a hypnotic presentation of Indian classical music, but we try to accommodate as many different forms of art that can go with the mood of the music."

The festival features dance and aims to widen the audience for Indian classical music in the west by fusing it with the likes of western classical music.

Go to saudha.org



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MORTGAGE MATTERS

MARK HARRIS looks at ways of lowering the cost of your mortgage...

It's likely to be your single biggest outgoing every month, so there's every reason to make sure your mortgage is as cost-effective as it can be.

However, there's no one-size-fits-all solution: the full cost of your mortgage often comes down to a combination of things you can't change (the current rate of interest, the value of your home) and things you can (your credit score, savings and, of course, the deal you choose).

One thing you're in full control of is how much legwork you're prepared to put in – and the more searching, fact-checking and cross-referencing you do, the better the deal you're likely to find.

Although the type of rate you're on is clearly a factor, the true cost of a mortgage is often buried in the fees. Remortgage fees, arrangement fees, legal fees and more can run into the thousands if you're not careful.

Seasoned homeowners probably know the score with mortgage rates by now: fixed rates give certainty, variable rates are a bit of a gamble that may or may not pay off. In either case, you'll often be offered an initial special rate for a period of two, three or five years, after which your rate will revert to a higher one.

This is why it's a good idea to take a good look at any exit fees for moving your mortgage to a new lender. If you plan to shop around when that attractive initial rate ends – as a savvy borrower should – your good work could be undone by a heavy exit fee.

If you can afford to make extra payments, go ahead – as long as you've run the maths. It effectively shortens your mortgage term, so you'll pay less interest overall and that can make a huge difference – especially if you're on a variable deal and interest rates begin to rise. However, your provider might try to counteract this in a number of ways.

Your mortgage might have extra payment penalties built in, so crunch the numbers and make sure you're overpaying enough to make the interest reduction worth your while. Or instead of charging you, your lender might automatically reduce your monthly payment to compensate. If they do this, get in touch with them to discuss your overpayment options (if any).

Finally, don't forget to make sure your credit record is up-to-date before applying for a mortgage or remortgage. If you've had any credit troubles in the past which have now been resolved, it should be reflected in your record or you might miss out on the more competitive deals.

For further information visit savills.co.uk.



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Obituary

JAMES FRANCIS O'NEILL (BIG JIM)

Who passed away on the 19th February 2016 aged 68.
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AWESOMEOFFERS

RENAULT LAUNCHES ITS LATEST FINANCE OFFERS IN TIME FOR 16-PLATE REGISTRATION

- **All-new Renault offers launched in time for 16-plate registration**
- **Two-year 0% APR Selections PCP package available on Twingo, Clio & Captur**
- **£500 towards fuel on top of existing Clio and Captur offers**
- **Four-year 5.9%**



Renault has announced its latest finance offers across its desirable and award-winning new models. After an outstanding 2015 for the French manufacturer, there has never been a better time for motorists to purchase a Renault.

Available across the entire Renault model line-up, the attractive offers include the addition of a two-year 0% APR Selections PCP package on selected Twingo, Clio and Captur models.

Lowering customers' motoring costs even further and adding plenty of fuel for thought, those who purchase the stylish Clio or Captur by March 14th will also drive away with an additional £500 towards their fuel costs.

Ideal for urban environments with its compact dimensions and agile maneuverability, the five-door Twingo city car is now even more tempting with the two-year 0% APR Selections PCP package. With a minimum customer deposit of £1,199 on the Twingo Play SCe70, motorists who opt for this Selections PCP package can enjoy the innovative, rear-wheel drive, rear-engined Twingo for only £139 per month.

Already a firm favourite with car buyers and celebrating its 25th anniversary of going on sale in the UK in 2016 the stylish and iconic Clio Dynamique Nav 1.2 16v 75 can be purchased through the two-year 0% APR Selections PCP package for only £169 per month with a minimum customer deposit of £2,2981.

The Captur – Europe's best-selling small crossover – is certain to attract even more followers with the availability of the two-year 0% APR Selections PCP package. With a minimum customer deposit of £1,504, drivers can find themselves behind the wheel of the Captur Dynamique Nav TCe90for only £199 per month.

For the same monthly payments as these offers and £139, £169 and £199 respective customer deposits, Twingo, Clio and Captur customers continue to have the option of an attractive and popular four-year 5.9% APR Selections PCP package.

In addition, the award-winning All-New Renault Kadjar crossover can also be purchased through a four-year 5.9% APR Selections PCP package, the Dynamique Nav dCi110 model being available with a £309 customer deposit and monthly payments of £309.

An array of other finance options are also available across the wider Renault range.

Whichever option a customer chooses, they will benefit from the Renault 4+ warranty and Renault Assistance scheme which provides the ultimate peace of mind for four years or 100,000 miles.

Clio Dynamique Nav 1.2 16V 75 – representative example:

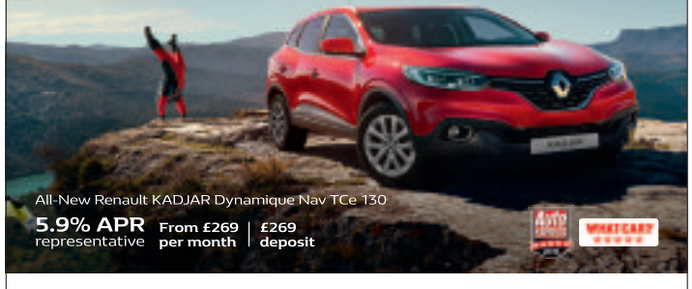
- 24 monthly payments of £169
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To find out more about these special offers visit **www.smcmotorgroup/renault** or "LIKE" them on the SMC Motor Group Facebook or Twitter or call SMC Motor Group in Weybridge on 168-170 Oatlands Drive or Ash Road Aldershot or "LIKE" them on the SMC Motor Group Facebook or Twitter or call SMC Motor Group in Weybridge on 01932 282 848 or Aldershot on 01252 888 498.

Finance provided by Renault Finance, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Indemnities may be required. UK residents only (excluding the Channel Islands). Over 18s. Terms and conditions apply. Offer based on 6,000 miles per annum, excess mileage 8p per mile inc VAT. Finance available on selected new vehicles when ordered between 12 February and 31 March 2016 and registered by 30 June 2016. Excludes Expression and Renaultsport models. Offer for £500 cashback towards fuel (including VAT) is available to retail customers only on new Clio and Captur models when ordered between 12 February and 14 March 2016 and registered by 31 March 2016. Participating dealers only.

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16 PLATE

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5.9% APR representative | From £199 per month | £199 deposit

Representative Example Renault CLIO Play 1.2 16V 75

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SEAT LEON WINS BEST BUY COUPÉ (LESS THAN £25,000) AT WHAT CAR? AWARDS FOR THIRD TIME!!!

SEAT is kicking off 2016 in cava style, having picked up yet another highly coveted trophy at the annual What Car? Awards. At a suitably glitzy ceremony held at London's Grosvenor House Hotel tonight, SEAT's sleek three-door Leon fought off fierce competition from two rivals to land the Best Buy Coupé (less than £25,000) category for the third time on the bounce



Wider and shorter than its five-door brother, the Leon SC (Sports Coupé) combines the head-turning looks and agile nature of a coupé, with the practicality of a hatchback. The winning version, Leon SC FR, is available from only £20,225 and comes comprehensively equipped, with 17-inch 'Dynamic' alloy wheels, dual-zone climate control, exclusive FR sport styling inside and out, plus Technology Pack included (which comprises Navigation System with 6.5-inch colour touchscreen, DAB digital radio, full LED lights). The svelte three-door bodystyle of SEAT's best-selling model is available with either a precise six-speed manual gearbox or slick-shifting seven-speed DSG auto, and comes with a choice of seven diesel and petrol engines, including the even more potent CUPRA 290.

Commenting on the Leon SC's third consecutive victory, Haymarket's Editorial Director, Jim Holder, said, "Is it a coupé or is it a three-door hatch? We think the Leon SC just qualifies as the former and there's no question it's a cracking buy. For a fraction more than £20,000 you're getting a car that's as fun to drive as many hot hatches and which is remarkably well equipped. The SC's hatch roots make it practical; two adults will fit in the back seats easily enough and the boot is just as big as a five-door Leon's. We've chosen the 148bhp 1.4 TSI petrol version, partly because it has enough performance to entertain (0-62mph takes less than eight seconds) but also because its CO2 emissions are a diesel-rivalling 114g/km. This efficiency is partly thanks to the engine's clever trick of being able to shut down half of its cylinders when cruising to save fuel.

He continued, "The Leon SC had to fend off the similarly slinky Volkswagen Scirocco and the more focused Toyota GT-86. It did so easily, winning this price point for a third year on the trot."

Speaking at the awards bash, SEAT UK's Director, Richard Harrison, added, "After winning the same category for the last two years, we were quietly confident about our chances this time around. But to win it yet again, especially against such tough opposition, is testament to the Leon SC's enticing, all-round qualities. It's got real substance backing up its eye-catching style, with performance, quality and value-for-money in spades."

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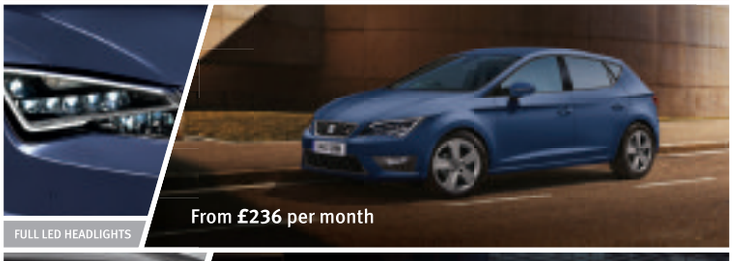


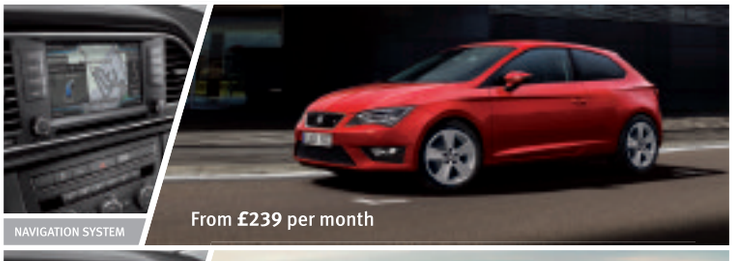
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Official fuel consumption for the SEAT Leon in mpg (litres per 100km); urban 32.1 (8.8) – 72.4 (3.9); extra-urban 51.4 (5.5) – 88.3 (3.2);combined 42.2 (6.7) – 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions 156 – 89 g/km. Standard EU Test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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Kingston Guardian

Surbiton on course for top



SURBITON'S hopes of finishing top of the Women's Hockey League Premier Division for a second successive season were boosted when they won 2-0 at East Grinstead.

Goals from Beckie Middleton and Olivia Chilton secured the points on Saturday to close the gap to leaders the University of Birmingham, who lost 1-0 at Reading.

The Sugden Road club's men drew 1-1 with MHL Premier Division leaders Holcombe after Dave Beckett, *right*, hit an equaliser 11 minutes from time.

Surbiton's men head to East Grinstead on Saturday, while the women host Clifton Ladies.



Lording it: Southend's Paul Whittaker

Whittaker cruises to victory

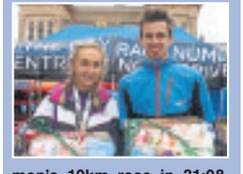
SOUTHEND's Paul Whittaker clocked a season's best time to cruise to victory in the Kingston half-marathon on Sunday, *writes Stuart Amos*.

The 26-year-old crossed in one hour eight minutes 36 seconds to beat Epsom & Ewell Harrier Ollie Garrod (1.12:55) into second place.

Former Great Britain hockey international Natalie Seymour, a Thames Turbo triathlete and Teddington Swimming Club member, was the first woman home as she finished 41st in 1.25:53.

Jennifer Rich was second, behind Seymour, in 1.27:13 as she finished 58th overall.

Former St Mary's University student Danny Davis, now running for Leeds City Athletics Club, won the



men's 10km race in 31:08, with Windsor, Slough, Eton & Hounslow AC athlete Nicole Swaffield, *pictured above left with Davis*, **claiming the women's race win in 38:20.**

Davis finished ahead of Clapham Chasers' Nathan Smeaton (33:28) in second and Kingston University student Kieran Gilfedder (33:50) in third.

Swaffield was three minutes 30 seconds ahead of nearest challenger Epsom Oddballs' Becky McNicholas (41:50).

More than 1,500 athletes took part in the half-marathon and 10km races – a key event in the build up to the London marathon.

UNHAPPY CHAPPY: Boss Williams slams cup heroes and promises change

Cup joy falls flat for Ks

SPORTS EDITOR
STUART AMOS
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KEEPER Rob Tolfrey and striker Andre McCollin were the heroes as Kingstonian secured a Robert Dyas Cup final berth on Monday night, but boss Tommy Williams was far from happy.

Tolfrey, captain on the night, saved two Wingate & Finchley penalties as Ks earned a 4-2 shoot-out triumph after the scores had finished level at 2-2.

A McCollin brace had Ks 2-1 up inside 15 minutes, but they were not the same team after Wingate keeper Bobby Smith was stretchered off with a suspected dislocated shoulder midway through the first half.

Billy Healey levelled matters for the visitors early in the second half and Ks – who were dreadful after the break – were left hanging on for a penalty shoot-out victory eventually delivered by Tolfrey.

And Williams, who saw his side draw 0-0 at struggling Needham Market on Saturday, has promised to bring in at least one new face to give his side a boost.

"It was great to get through to the cup final, but I'm disappointed with the second half," he said.

"We looked flat, no tempo, didn't pass the ball and we didn't turn them around when we needed to.

"We got ourselves into a cup final, but the dressing room is flat having churned out probably our worst performance of the season in the second half."



Picture tells the story: Kingstonian players could have looked happier at reaching the Robert Dyas Cup final by way of Monday's penalty shoot-out victory over Wingate & Finchley. A dreadful second half performance has boss Tommy Williams concerned

He added: "If we have aspirations of getting in the playoffs then we have to be better than that.

"I'll be addressing the squad and looking where we need to maybe make one or two changes.

"I'm speaking to one player, so hopefully we'll get him in because I was disappointed with tonight. We know we are better than that."

McCollin, Aaron Goode, Harold Odametey and Pelayo Pico Gomez all found the net from the spot to take Ks through to a final date with either Sittingbourne or Faversham Town on April 6.

But it was Tolfrey who was the hero of the hour.

"I've got a good record with penalty shoot-outs. It is just what I do," he added.



Last man standing: Penalty save hero Rob Tolfrey, left

"The first one was a good save and the second one I got a good strong hand to it.

"I'm glad we got the right result in the end."

Ks host Burgess Hill Town, who have one win in their past 10 games, on Sunday.

Setting new standards



Champion: Pippa Earley

KINGSTON & Polytechnic Harrier Pippa Earley has had two U17 Surrey Indoor Athletics Championship records confirmed.

The 15-year-old Notre Dame School student, in her first year in the U17 age group, set the new marks at the championships in Carshalton last month.

Earley won the 60m hurdles title in 8.6 seconds – the second fastest UK time this year – before going on to claim the long jump crown with a leap of 5.85 metres, breaking a record that had stood for 14 years.

Casuals are still in it

BOSS James Bracken bemoaned his side's inconsistency on Saturday, but insisted Corinthian Casuals had enough about them to maintain a Ryman Division One South play-off challenge, *writes Stuart Amos*.

Casuals crashed 2-1 at home to South Park on Saturday a week after an impressive 1-0 win at fourth-placed Herne Bay.

They are four points adrift of the top five with 10 games to play of a campaign that is already the club's most successful in memory.

Casuals face play-off rivals Hastings United and Faversham Town in their next two league games before travelling to league leaders Folkestone Invicta.

And Bracken believes the trio of fixtures should hold no fears for his men.

"Of course we're still in the play-off race," he said.

"We didn't get the three points, so now we need to pick up six from the next three. If we do that, then we're still in with a shout.

"If we're three to six points outside the play-offs with seven games to go, then we'll be in with a good chance."

SPORTS*brief*

FOOTBALL: Chessington & Hook United took on Ashford Town (Middx) in the Premier Challenge Cup on Tuesday without having played a match since February 6. United's Chalky Lane home has been unplayable due to waterlogging for the past month, while away trips to Knaphill and Redhill have also fallen foul of the weather. In fact, Chessington have not hosted a game since a 2-1 win over Bedfont Sports on October 27, which coincidentally is their last combined Counties League Premier Division victory. Tuesday's cup tie had been scheduled to be at home, but was switched to Ashford's Short Lane stadium to get the tie played. Chessington head to Cove on Saturday.

RUGBY: Kingston face an all or nothing clash when Chipstead visit Hook Road this weekend. Kingston thumped Law Society 64-12 last Saturday to revive hopes of beating the Surrey Division One drop. Head coach Matt Hawke's men are in the bottom two, but are only five points adrift of third-bottom Chipstead meaning a bonus point triumph would lift them above their relegation rivals. Kingston finish their campaign with clashes against second-placed Old Freemans and third-placed Old Whitgiftian. Old Emanuel host Old Whitgiftian on Saturday.

FOOTBALL: Kingstonian will display detailed plans for their proposed new stadium in Chessington at Sunday's home clash with Burgess Hill Town. Ks are considering a switch to Garrison Lane, the site of the former Chessington Golf Centre, and are in advanced talks with a local developer and planning consultant over the move. The plans for the project, which remains subject to planning permission, will also be on display during next week's visit of Harrow Borough on March 12. Full story on the front page.

PARKRUN: West 4 Harrier Paul Piper claimed victory in his first Bushy Park parkrun appearance – and first parkrun outing since 2014 – on Saturday. Piper clocked 16 minutes five seconds in beating Kingston & Polytechnic Harrier Neil Wellard (16:17) into second place and Walton Athletics Club's Matt Reed (16:51) into third.

BOXING: Kingston's Thao Lee Wo will fight Reigate's Ricky James for the vacant Queensbury Boxing League novice middleweight title at Epsom Downs Racecourse on April 9. Lee Wo beat Ashley Fiech in his last outing.